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REDISCOVERY OF *HYLA DORSALIS* AND *LECHRIODUS PAPUANUS* IN NEW GUINEA

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Last year I had occasion to describe a new microhylid discovered by Mr. Kenneth R. Slater at Omati, Papua. More recently we have received part of a collection made by Mr. Slater during a trip up the Aramia River. This river lies somewhat to the north of Katow (i.e. Binturi River, Papua), a locality from which Macleay (1877, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, **2**, pp. 135-138) described a number of amphibians, among them *Litoria dorsalis* Macleay, now known as:



HYLA DORSALIS (Macleay)

This hylid, so far as I know, has not been taken again during the period of almost eighty years that has since elapsed. Among the Slater material is a 20 mm. gravid ♀ *Hyla* (M.C.Z. 28389) that agrees so closely with Macleay's brief description of the holotype of *dorsalis* (whose length is given as "9 lines," i.e. 19 mm., its hind limb as "16 lines," i.e. 33.8 mm. as against 35 mm. in ours) that I have no hesitation in assigning our frog to *dorsalis*, which must be one of the smallest members of the genus *Hyla*.

Slater's specimen differs only in the absence of a light vertebral line from snout to anus. On either eyelid are two tiny tubercles that, if constant in the species, may well have been overlooked by Macleay.

LECHRIODUS PAPUANUS (Roux)

The same collection contained half a dozen frogs (M.C.Z. 28382-7) bearing a distinct resemblance to *Cornufer*, but I am indebted to Dr. L. D. Brongersma of Leiden for pointing out that they have arciferal shoulder girdles and more or less dilated sacral diapophyses, so that he would refer them to *Lechriodus papuanus* (Roux) which was described in 1927 from a single juvenile ♀, 23 mm. in length, taken near Lake Sentani on the northern coast of Netherlands New Guinea. In the thirty years that have intervened since the holotype was taken by Dr. P. Wirz, no second specimen has been recorded so far as I know.

No material was available to Parker when he monographed the Leptodactylidae of Australasia (1940, Novit. Zool., **42**, pp. 1-106) and he had but two examples of *L. fletcheri* (Boulenger) of which Roux made *papuanus* a subspecies. Parker (pp. 25, 27) treated *papuanus* as a full species but the dermal skinfolds by which he separates the two forms are so highly variable that it is questionable if they really do so. If Brongersma and I are correct in assigning these frogs to *papuanus*, the -shaped interorbital fold figured by Roux is either irregularly transverse, more often -shaped; the "curved, convergent dorso-lateral folds" are often rather ill-defined and may be represented by a few odd plicae extending no further than the scapula region. In only one frog do they approach the distinctness suggested by Roux's figure; they are quite indistinguishable from our *fletcheri* ♀♀ from New South Wales in this respect. As I find little but color to separate the two, it would seem that Roux was justified in regarding *papuanus* as only a race of *fletcheri*.


If I were called upon to distinguish the two forms I would do so as follows:

Color above pale brown with traces of a blackish brown line from end of snout along the canthus to the eye and from eye over tympanum to a point above elbow; lower lip dark brown; no interorbital skin fold (on either of our ♀♀ from New South Wales). *Range*: New South Wales; Queensland; and (*vide* Parker) British New Guinea *f. fletcheri*

Color above light gray, a white, finely black-edged, shieldlike patch on snout which may merge with two similar, but smaller, anteorbital patches; from eye over tympanum to a

point above elbow a broad or narrow blackish brown line which may break up into a series of black specks; lower lip white; an indistinct interorbital skin fold (4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ from Aramia River). *Range*: British and Dutch New Guinea
f. papuanus

Our knowledge of *f. papuanus*, hitherto derived from a single immature ♀, is naturally extended by the Aramia River series of adult ♂♂ and ♀♀; on the latter the following description is exclusively based.

Description. Vomerine teeth in two confluent or semiconfluent series extending in an almost unbroken undulating line right across the roof of the mouth behind the level of, and beyond, the choanae. Head slightly broader than long, i.e. the breadth equals the distance from end of snout to angle of jaw; snout oval to obtusely rounded; nostril slightly nearer the front of the lip than it is to the orbit; interorbital space narrower than an upper eyelid; upper eyelid with several small, sometimes scarcely noticeable, tubercles; a rather indistinct, transverse or  shaped interorbital fold; from the eye a supratympanic fold, which may be broken up, extends posteriorly to a point above the shoulder; tympanum vertically oval, its horizontal diameter about two-thirds that of the eye; from behind the eyelids a pair of more or less)(-shaped glandular skin folds (frequently reduced to a pair of short lines) extend to, or beyond, the scapular region of the otherwise largely smooth dorsum.

Fingers free, their tips somewhat swollen but not dilated, without horizontal grooves, first and second subequal in all six specimens; subarticular tubercles large, metacarpus with a large supernumerary tubercle; toes webbed, from first to fifth the following phalanges free (except for a lateral seam) 2, 2, 3, 4, 2½, their tips slightly dilated and with or without a circum-marginal groove, third toe longer than the fifth; subarticular tubercles prominent, a conspicuous inner metatarsal two-thirds the length of the first toe, no outer metatarsal tubercle; tibio-tarsal articulation of an adpressed hindlimb extends almost to the nostril, or to the nostril, or end of snout. Skin of throat and belly smooth.

Color. Above, tip of snout with a conspicuous white, finely black-edged, shieldlike patch that may be disconnected with a similarly light patch in front of each eye, or fork posteriorly and merge with the anteorbital patches; from eye towards flank a more or less conspicuous black line which breaks up into black flecks on the flank immediately posterior to the forearm; dorsum pale gray, with or without a few fine black lines; supra-anal area pale; circum-anal area black, becoming lighter on the buttocks toward the tibio-tarsal joint; fore- and hindlimb more or less faintly crossbarred. Below, white, uniform except that the chin and jaws are grayish in ♂♂, while in both sexes the lower posterior aspect of forearms, anterior aspect of tibia, and soles of feet, are black.

Size. Length from snout to anus of largest ♂ (M.C.Z. 28385), 49 mm., of ♀ (M.C.Z. 28382), 52 mm.; length of head from tip of snout to back of tympanum in ♂, 18 mm.; in ♀, 20 mm.; length of hind limb from anus to tip of longest toe in ♂, 77 mm.; in ♀, 86 mm. In size, therefore, *papuanus* differs little from *fletcheri*.

Stomach contents. That of the ♂ was found by my colleague Dr. W. L. Brown to consist of a chrysomelid beetle, a termite's head, and remains of ants referable to the genus *Odontomachus*.